

them all. This is a time to celebrate the growth and achievements of the township and the efforts of all those who have paved its path to success. It is a time to remember the sacrifices of the good men and women, past and present, who helped to make Bethlehem what it is today.

Mr. Speaker, on June 6, the township will celebrate its Founder's Day, a day that will feature parades, a picnic, and a ceremony to honor its former mayors and other important residents who have made significant contributions. This is a time to remember all those who have made Bethlehem the prospering community that it is today. The parade is being hailed as a tribute to all citizens of the community. All attendees are encouraged to participate in the festivities as to truly symbolize the spirit of community in this great township.

Through both the remembrance of its history and the celebration of its present, this day promises to be a very special one. In the years to come, I am confident that Bethlehem Township will continue to build on its established foundations and will continue to enjoy the success that it has come to know.

I congratulate Mayor Walter Baumgarten and all of the township's citizens on this great honor. I am proud to have the township in my district.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT L. NOREM

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to the retirement of Robert L. Norem after 30 years of service in probation and corrections with Stanislaus County in California's great Central Valley. Bob has served as the Chief Probation Officer with Stanislaus County Probation since March 30, 1985.

As a friend of mine, I can attest to Bob's commitment and dedication to those he has served. That service cannot go unnoticed. He has worked tirelessly to provide leadership to Stanislaus County and its residents. Bob has the vision to see the importance of the role of probation in our communities and in the future.

While many talk about what could be done, or perhaps what should be done, Bob is the sort of man who rolls up his sleeves and gets the job done. I consider it an honor to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a privilege to honor Bob and commend him. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives rise and join me in congratulating Bob Norem on a job well done and in honoring him on his retirement.

MOURNING LOSS OF AIDS ACTIVIST STEVE MICHAEL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, we in the District and many others around the country will mourn the passing of valiant AIDS

activist Steve Michael, who died May 25th at the age of 42. As the founder of ACT UP-Washington and a ceaseless campaigner on behalf of men and women suffering from HIV and AIDS, Steve made an indelible mark on our nation's fight against this disease. We in the District are fortunate that Steve took as his own our fight for full democracy as well.

Steve arrived in Washington from Seattle in 1993, pressuring the Clinton administration on AIDS funding and on the rights of homosexuals. Steve's political career, however, was not limited to activism; he proved to be a staunch advocate of Home Rule, a frequent participant in the local and national political process, and finally a candidate for the District of Columbia City Council. His service on the DC HIV Planning Council as chair of the Fiscal Oversight Committee will not be forgotten by the citizens of Washington.

Steve's untimely death highlights the need for continuing research and funding as we work to find a cure for the scourge of AIDS. As the Washington Times noted, Steve pushed into the AIDS debate with "incredible energy," and his confrontational style broadened the health dialogue beyond the traditional corridors of power.

Steve Michael came to Washington as an angry young man. Until the end, he was angry enough to fight hard for the lives of others and then for his own life. In his activism over the years, Steve mellowed enough to develop a relationship with some public officials that became friendship. I count myself among those friends. I will think first and foremost of Steve this coming Sunday when I march in the annual Capital Pride parade for freedom from all forms of discrimination, including the homophobia that is still reflected in our laws. I will honor Steve's friendship, not with memories alone but with a continuing resolve to continue the fight against AIDS and HIV, against homophobia and for life.

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I have great pride in standing before you today to announce that Whitney M. Young Middle School in my Eleventh Congressional District has been awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award. This prestigious award was given to 166 secondary schools this year, 14 of which are in Ohio. The Blue Ribbon School award recognizes schools that have strong leadership, up-to-date curriculum and instruction, provide challenges to the students, high quality teaching and produces a safe environment that is conducive to learning. Other criteria include parent and community involvement, clear vision and mission shared by the entire school, and evidence that it helps all its students achieve the highest standard possible and share these standards and practices with other schools. These schools must also integrate these practices while meeting local, state, and national goals.

The schools are judged on these major requirements by a distinguished panel of some 100 public and private school educators, college and university staff, state and local gov-

ernment officials, school board members, parents, the education press, medical professionals, and business representatives. Whitney M. Young Middle School passed this selection criteria and the necessary on site visits in order to be recognized for the innovative work it is accomplishing through the education process.

Whitney M. Young Middle School is located in an urban environment with a 75% minority student body. A major portion of the school's success is having a faculty that is willing to go that extra mile for their students by ensuring a proper and challenging curriculum is available. Teachers are not only available for extra time with students but with parents as well for conferences and team meetings. Many of the strategic approaches that are initiated at Whitney Young are teacher implemented and originated.

Whitney Young also recognizes the efforts of its student body by awarding achievement on a regular basis. Students are given the opportunity for a wide range of cultural activities based upon their academic performance. The Cleveland metropolitan area provides the middle school with a diverse variety of events for the students to attend. Corporate sponsors are involved in Whitney Young's phenomenal learning process as well, by each year sponsoring a special location for the National Junior Honor Society inductions.

Mr. Speaker, schools are the institutions that equip our young people with the necessary tools for dealing with the challenges of the next century. This prestigious award recognizes those schools that not only provide students with an education but do so with a degree of pride and excellence. I would like to recognize a few of the people involved in Whitney Young's educational success; Mrs. Elaine Davis, the principal, the faculty and staff of Whitney Young, and lastly the students for their incredible achievement. I am extremely proud that Whitney M. Young Middle School has been added to the roster of distinguished schools who have received this award.

TRIBUTE TO THE 1998 GRADUATES RECOGNIZED BY THE CHALDEAN FEDERATION OF AMERICA

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all the students being recognized by the Chaldean Federation of America at their Annual Commencement and Scholarship Program. The program is being held this afternoon at the Mother of God Chaldean Church in Southfield, Michigan.

An umbrella organization of Chaldean churches and civic organizations, the Chaldean Federation of America devotes the majority of its efforts to education. The Federation encourages Chaldean youth not only to remain in school, but to strive for academic excellence and achievement. Almost 400 Chaldean students graduating from southeast Michigan high schools or colleges and universities will be recognized.